

# How to Provide Public Comments on Kentucky's Annual Block Grant Plans and Reports

## The Block Grant

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) provides the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG) and the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (MHBG) to States to address their unique behavioral health issues and enhance their behavioral health system of care. States submit a Behavioral Health Assessment and Plan on September 1<sup>st</sup> every year to describe their public behavioral health system of care and report allocation of funds. On December 1<sup>st</sup> States submit SABG and MHBG Behavioral Health Reports to report data, initiatives and expenditures of funds.

## Status of Reports

Kentucky's current Plans and Behavioral Health Reports as well as Plans and Reports from previous years are posted on the website (<http://dbhdid.ky.gov/dbh/kbhpac-bq.aspx>) of the Kentucky Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (DBHDID). The status of each document is indicated beside it (draft, submitted or approved). A Plan or Report which indicates "draft" means the document is being made public to solicit comments and has not been submitted to SAMHSA. A Plan or Report that indicates "submitted" means that DBHDID has submitted the document to SAMHSA for review and SAMHSA has the opportunity to ask DBHDID to make any necessary revisions or clarifications. A Plan or Report that is "approved" means that SAMHSA's staff has reviewed the document and determined that it has met criteria for approval. **DBHDID welcomes and encourages the public to provide comments on Plans and Reports of any status (draft, submitted or approved).**

## Providing Comments

There are several approaches one may use to comment on the Plans and Reports:

1) Attend a meeting of the Kentucky Behavioral Health Planning and Advisory Council. The Council reviews Kentucky's Behavioral Health Assessment and Plan at their regularly scheduled quarterly meeting in August and Kentucky's SABG and MHBG Behavioral Health Reports at their regularly scheduled quarterly meeting in November. This is an open meeting. The Council's meeting calendar is posted on DBHDID's website (<http://dbhdid.ky.gov/dbh/documents/kbhpac/Schedule.pdf>).

Individuals who will be attending a Council meeting may request accommodations such as American Sign Language interpreters or CART by contacting Michelle Niehaus at [Michelle.Niehaus@ky.gov](mailto:Michelle.Niehaus@ky.gov) or (502)782-6181 (Voice). Accommodations must be requested at least one day in advance.

2) By email to Michele Blevins at [Michele.Blevins@ky.gov](mailto:Michele.Blevins@ky.gov).

3) By U.S. Mail to the following address:

Kentucky Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities

Division of Behavioral Health

Attention: Michele Blevins – State Planner

275 E. Main Street, 4W-G

Frankfort, KY 40601

4) By fax to Michele Blevins at (502)564-9010.

Thank you for your interest in Kentucky's behavioral health system of care for individuals with, in recovery from, or at risk of developing behavioral health disorders!